

vention, to be composed of duly authorized delegates representing the several nations. That is to say, a convention having for its purpose the framing of a general constitutional government that will afford protection to the Indian owners of the country."

THE WIDE FIELD OF REFORM.

The reason why men appear to differ and to disagree so widely about the extent of reformation needed in society and the nature of appropriate remedies, will be found in the fact that all reformers do not see the same defects, and such as do see the same do not look at them from the same standpoint, nor view them in the same light; hence the relations which one subject or class of subjects bears to others are not given the same rank or importance by all students.

As illustrative of this thought persons who witnessed a particular transaction, when called upon to testify as witnesses in court, do invariably differ in some of their statements of details. One witness is positive on a particular point, yet has no recollection of some other matters that another witness is very clear upon. On examination in chief a witness goes on easily telling what he saw and heard, but on cross-examination he is soon made to feel that, after all, a good many things that were visible and audible at the particular time and place he did not see or hear, and so far as this witness is concerned, the things he did not see or hear were not present and did not take place at all.

So it is with jurors called upon to hear and determine the truth of a matter in issue; they excitedly discuss the various points involved, each along his own line of argument, and not until (as if solving a problem in algebra) they eliminate all things not necessarily factors in the case do they arrive at a conclusion.

The field of reform is wide, and the number of reformers are many, so many, indeed, that they amount to an innumerable host that no man can number, each, whether separately or in connection with others in organized bodies, moving in the direction of the light he sees and acting on what to him seems to be most important of all.

The man whose toil competes with the work of machines becomes a labor agitator. He sees but one way of restoring the even balance between employer and employe, and that is through public control that will secure to every worker what he earns.

The man who has lost his home through extortion of usurers and tax gatherers makes common cause with him that pays ten times as much tax on his lot or farm does the owner of the adjoining lot or farm, on which he has not put one atom of improvement, and these men become tax reformers.

The tiller of the soil and the manufacturer of farm and family supplies find themselves paying for transportation more than is reasonable, and they with people who have lost by reason of unjust discriminations on the part of railway and express companies, ask for reform in the matter of transportation.

Private credit being the basis of nearly all our substitutes for money, and frequently recurring panics leaving losses in their wake, the multitude cry for reform in the monetary system.

Then there is one who looks at all these things and takes careful note of the relations which they bear to one another. He sees society is made up of people whose wants in general are the same though their manner of life be very different. He sees the people divided into classes—farmers, manufacturers, carriers, miners, merchants, bankers, traders, etc.—all being under one form of government, each striving to earn a livelihood and accumulate property. He sees that what the people most need and want is freedom in the exercise of their individual powers within the limits of "safety and happiness" of all the people, and he knows to

a certainty that this broad liberty can be established and maintained only on the foundation of the equal rights of men.

This is the philosopher who takes time to study the various phases of discontent, who sees what the people are doing and hears what they are saying. To him reform means the protection of the common rights of men in their diversified pursuits. It includes every feature and phase of improvement which our multiplying wants bring to the surface of affairs. Every man and every woman at work in any department of effort to better the condition of one person or class, or to relieve one particular ailment in one or more of their fellow humans, is a harvest hand in the wide field of reform. Each separate movement, like a wheel in a clock, is a necessary part of the greater movement which includes all and which requires all and each that the general object may be attained.

"All are but parts of one stupendous whole,
Whose body nature is and God the soul."

A NEW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.

The Cook County Business Men's Association is the name of a body formed a few days ago in Chicago. The objects proposed to be accomplished by the association are published as follows:

1. To promote harmony and unity of purpose among the business men of Cook county through organization.
2. To elevate the standard of trade through exposure of the tricks and sharp practices of the department stores.
3. To protect the public against adulterations.
4. To foster education by suppression of child labor.
5. To assist the trades and labor unions in upholding their standard and encouraging through training in manual and technical pursuits.
6. To aid the professions in maintaining and elevating their standards for the public welfare and the improvement of the practice in the arts and sciences.
7. To resist unequal taxation.
8. To regulate the sale of merchandise on the natural lines of separation as required by hygienic and moral considerations.
9. To enforce all statutes and ordinances that will protect the lives and the health of the public against the monopolies and the misrepresentations of the department stores.
10. To initiate legislation designed to improve the status of the business men and to promote the candidacy of persons irrevocably pledged to these objects and purposes.

This association is composed chiefly of small traders and merchants whose occupations are interfered with by the department stores which carry a general assortment of goods belonging to different classes. It is the same kind of resistance, that is, it comes from the same general cause, that we see in the trades—combination crowding out competition. John sells groceries, Peter sells shoes, Paul dry goods, James clothing, and so on through the list of retailers, when Matthew comes along and opens a big store in their midst, where he has one department for shoes, one for clothing, one for groceries, one for hardware, and one for each of the great classes of goods, wares and merchandise, and the trade of the small stores is crippled accordingly. Hence this association and others like it.

While this is natural, because it is in the line of self-defense, yet the movement will not succeed. There are in all cases at least two parties to a sale—the seller and the buyer, and while the seller is in the business to make profit, the buyer wants to save every cent he can. If a merchant can sell enough more at a lower price to make larger profits, he will do so, and the people who buy will defend him.

The small store in large cities will go as did the shoemaker, the weaver and the tailor. Where combination is possible, competition will cease.

Though we quarrel among ourselves as partisans, yet what most concerns us is

the method or manner of executing the recognized powers of government and administering the laws we have.

THE PROPOSED POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Some criticism of the present proposed legislation to establish postal savings banks has been promised on the ground that it is in the interest of banks and not of depositors. This, the Advocate is inclined to think, is a narrow view of the subject. We have read a good deal of what the Chicago Record has been publishing along that line, and we have not seen anything from that source which will bear the construction put upon it by the critics. Here is something from that paper which answers the charge without any apparent effort to do so:

"One of the principal reasons put forth in opposition to the establishment of postal savings banks is that the government ought not to interfere in any way with the business of private bankers by taking for safe keeping deposits which they might like to handle.

"Opposed to the general principle laid down by the opponents of postal savings banks as the basis of their opposition is another principle which the Record believes is more pertinent to the particular subject under consideration. It is that private individuals ought not be allowed to make a profit from handling the small savings of the poor. This principle is one that is recognized not only in most civilized countries abroad, but also in those parts of the United States where wealth is most abundant and where provisions for the protection of property of all kinds are most highly developed. In the New England States and New York, the only portion of this country at all adequately supplied with savings bank facilities, bankers are not allowed, as in Illinois, to regard the small savings of the poor as funds to be invested for their own private enrichment. The savings banks of those States are mutual institutions, managed by trustees who serve without compensation and who derive no profit from the loaning of the funds intrusted to their care. No other kind of savings bank is permitted by law. The savings of the poor are held so sacred that it is deemed unwise to allow bankers to use them for private profit for fear the tendency to speculate with the funds and invest them in questionable securities because those pay high rates of interest might result in loss and hardship to a class that it should be especially the object of society to protect.

"If we are not to have postal banks, then the States of the West and South should imitate the example of New England and New York and make provision for mutual savings institutions for the accommodation of small depositors. The principle should be recognized in practice the country over, as it is in the extreme Eastern States and in Europe, that the small savings of the poor should not be used for the profit of those to whose care they may be intrusted. But if this principle is to be carried out, there will be much less reason why the government should not itself directly care for these small savings, for then the undertaking of this work would not be held to be interference with the profit-making purpose of private bankers."

A case was recently decided in the court of last resort in the State of New York determining a question of vast importance to the people of the whole country. A labor union had secured the discharge of a non-union workman and interfered to prevent his employment anywhere else solely on the ground that he did not belong to the union, and he brought suit to recover damages on account of the loss of employment and difficulty in securing work at his trade elsewhere. The dispatches say the court held that such interference was illegal, that if it were tolerated many honest and competent men would be unable to earn a living; that it was a restriction upon personal liberties and repugnant to the constitution. No man or association of men could lawfully interfere with the efforts of a fellow man to follow his regular trade or occupation so long as he observed the law, and that such in-

terference was a conspiracy to deprive the victim of his right as a citizen. The court allowed the full amount of damages claimed, and issued an order forbidding the union to further interfere with his efforts to obtain employment.

Notes and Comment.

Severe snows are reported on the cattle ranges in South Dakota.

Three failures were reported on the New York Stock Exchange last week.

The Citizens' Reform party elected the Mayor, Auditor and three Councilmen at Salt Lake City.

Senator Wolcott, Mr. McKinley's European bimetallic ambassador, has returned to this country, but he has nothing to say.

A law which would have had the effect of making Georgia a prohibition State has been defeated in the State Legislature.

The report of the Pension Commissioner shows that there has been a net increase in the number of pensioners in the last year of 5,336.

An attempt to assassinate the President of Brazil has precipitated trouble which has resulted in martial law being declared at Rio de Janeiro.

Doctor Hirschfelder, who has discovered what he believes is a sure cure for consumption, will give it to the public free and will reserve no proprietary rights.

The Werner Company, of Chicago, and Akron, O., one of the largest printing establishments in this country, has gone into the hands of a receiver. It employs 1,200 men.

Mark Twain attended a very boisterous session of the Austrian Parliament, which reminded him, he says, of an American lynching bee for the entertainment of a "boss" thief.

Newspaper dispatches from Rome contain rumors that the original report of Pontius Pilate to the Emperor Tiberius of the crucifixion of Christ has been found in the archives of the Vatican.

The government has sent another man-of-war to the Florida waters. It is intimated that this has been done in anticipation of war with Spain, but the department says it is to stop filibustering.

Bob Fitzsimmons, the pugilist, was initiated into an Elks lodge last week without a proper dispensation, and the higher officers of the order will suspend the lodge's charter if he is not expelled at once.

Phil Armour, the millionaire packer, is reported to have bought up for one year all of the cattle space on trans-Atlantic steamers so that he will have control of all the beef shipped from this country.

Colonel Waring, of the street cleaning department in New York, has brought suit for \$100,000 against Boss Croker and the publisher of the Morning Telegraph. The damages are based on alleged libelous publications.

The patronage of the new Mayor of Greater New York is second only to that of the President of the United States. There are 55,000 positions under him, 33,000 of which carry salaries amounting in the aggregate to \$33,000,000 annually.

Kansas City Times: "Without a murmur the people of the United States have paid the expenses of General Miles' visit to Kings, Queens, Kaisers and Emperors of Europe. Why can he not be equally magnanimous by firing off his report at them?"

General Blanco has taken command of the Spanish army in Cuba. He announced that the revolution is an infamous thing and that it will be met with war. He made no reference to autonomy or any concessions of any sort in any of his proclamations.

Pierre Lorillard, the millionaire tobacco manufacturer, has just returned from Europe. He says that too much politics is ruining this country; and that he will return to Europe as soon as he can get away again. No wonder Europeans get absurd notions about Americans when they have Astor, Carnegie and Lorillard with them all of the time.

Send in your Breidenthal scrip. It is good at this office.